4-10-97


# VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 50, Issue 8 Thursday, April 10, 1997


## HIGHLIGHTS

Today is the final day to vote for officers in the **ASU elections,** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A **Retiree's Reception** will be held today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Music Building lawn area. Faculty and staff are invited to attend.

**The Campus Concert Series** will present Solon Pierce, pianist, today at 11 a.m. in the Music Recital Hall.

**The LAVC Philharmonic Choir and Chamber Singers**, George Attarian and Nick Strimple, directors, present a Schubert Bicentennial Event and will perform choral music of Franz Schubert in the LAVC Little Theatre Sunday at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

**Representatives from four-year colleges and universities** will be available for Valley College students: CSUN will be on campus Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be available by appointment scheduled at the Transfer Center only. Representatives from UC Riverside will be on campus Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be available by appointment only for "Tele-Counseling." Representatives from the University of Phoenix will be on campus Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will be available on a walk-in basis. For more information call ext. 332 or stop by the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126.

**The Spring Counseling Lunchtime Workshop Series** will feature Margaret Chun, speaking on "Job Search Strategies" in the Foreign Language Building, room 102, Tuesday at noon.

**Hillel and the Jewish Studies Department** invite the campus community to attend "Building Bridges of Understanding," with Rabbi Ed Feinstein as guest speaker, at the Fireside Room, Campus Center, Wednesday from 10-11 a.m.

**Jordan Charnofsky, classical guitarist**, will perform at the Music Recital Hall Thursday, April 17 at 11a.m.

The 20th anniversary of the **Health Fair Expo** will be held at Valley College Monday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free health screenings and counseling will be available. For more information call the Health Fair Hotline at 1-800-488-Expo (3976).

## POLICE WATCH

A burglary from a 1991 Honda CRX occurred Wednesday in lot A between noon and 4p.m.. Taken was a stereo and speaker system valued at $400. There was no sign of forced entry and there are no suspects at this time.

**Information provided by Campus Police.**

# Campus Club Fights for Native American Land

■ **Valley College students visit disputed Big Mountain, Arizona to rally for Native American homesteads.**

By DAVID BALDWIN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Students from the Valley College American Indian Student Association traveled to Big Mountain, Arizona last week to show support for Native Americans whose land is threatened by the U.S. government.

The federal government had set a March 31 deadline for the approximately 350 Navajo families to evacuate the land. The Navajo and Hopi nations have been in a despute for several years about the ownership of the land. In 1991, a federal court ordered the parties to reach an agreement.

President Clinton signed legislation that was meant to end the dispute October 1996. The legislation would have allowed the Navajos to sign a 75-year lease to remain on the land while the Hopis would receive $50 million from the U.S. government to purchase other land. But that agreement was not accepted by Navajos and they were ordered to leave.

After getting to Big Mountain March 31, the Valley College students spent a day there before learning the deadline had been pushed back anther 90 days, Trujillo said.

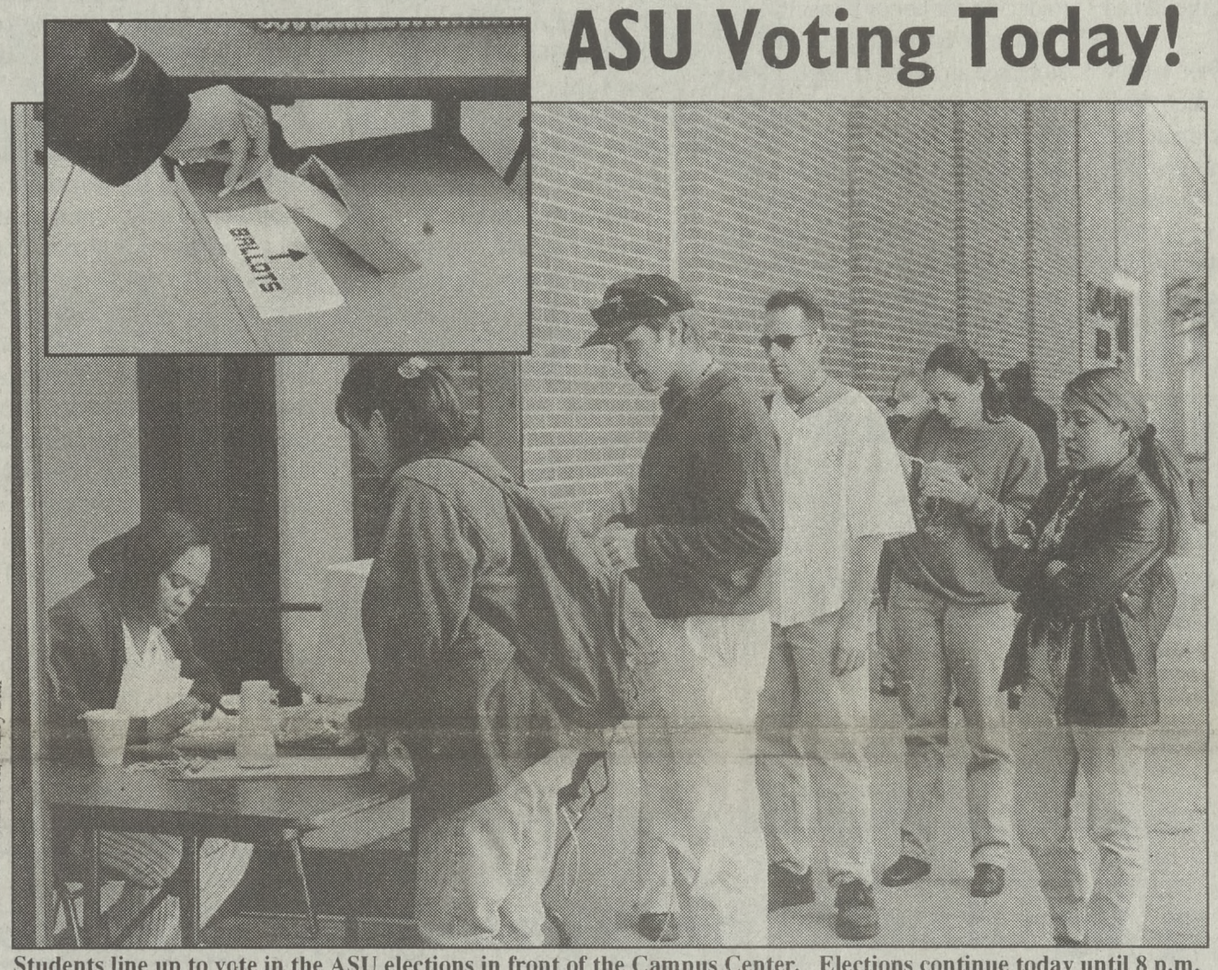
They also learned eight families had already been moved out. The students were only allowed to stay one day, because of concerns for their safety amid threats of violence, Trujillo said.

Earlier this semester, the AISA had collected signatures for a petition to help save the Navajo homes and plan to mail it to the Navajos in the near future. Trujillo said that the Navajo appreciated the support that AISA showed, but did not want any harm to come to the students.

The 75-year lease must be signed by 65 percent of the Navajos living on the land. Trujillo said the Navajos fear their religious traditions and tribal practices may be limited or harmed if they are forced to live elsewhere. They seek basic freedoms to live their lives, he said.

Trujillo said that AISA plans to continue to watch the conflict and support the Navajo families if an agreement allowing their freedoms cannot be reached.

## ASU Voting Today!




Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

**Students line up to vote in the ASU elections in front of the Campus Center. Elections continue today until 8 p.m.**

## Dean's Reception Planned for Wednesday

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The semi-annual Dean's Reception will be held at 2 p.m. in Monarch Hall to honor those students who have earned a place on the Dean's Honor List for the Fall 1996 semester.

Both full-time and part-time students are eligible for the Dean's Honor List, according to information provided by the Dean of Students office. For the complete Dean's Honor List and eligibility requirements, see pages three and four.

The reception will include light refreshments and a program honoring students with guest speakers and a musical performance..

Valley College President Tyree Wieder, Valley College Vice President Sue Carleo and Dr. Kenneth Washington, President of the L.A. Community College District Board of Trustees, will be among the speakers at the reception.

Michelle Block and Robert Lane, presidents of the Valley College honor societies, Tau Alpha Epsilon and Phi Theta Kappa, respectively, will also speak.

Ms. Chin Kim, a pianist and student from the Valley College music department, will perform for the reception.

For more information, contact the Dean of Students office at (818) 778-0243.

# College Faculty Faces Challenge of Technology

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

Technological demands in the evolution of education have helped determine the direction of planning at Valley College, Dr. Susan Carleo, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said recently.

"Many subjects lend themselves easily to technology," Carleo said. "The sciences, accounting, languages, biology, we have to assure faculty are exposed to the latest and best technology and primarily we will be doing this through our Professional Media Resource Center (PMRC)."

Carleo said the school has a technology task force which focuses on ensuring faculty computer access so they continue their learning and development with technology. This, Carleo said, enables them to relate it to their curriculum in class.

"There will be things faculty must continue to keep learning," Carleo said. "It's always been that way. And, as more and more faculty find ways to use computers, other faculty see how exciting the potential is. So faculty, in an informal peer relationship, inspire each other."

Carleo said the school also has mandatory requirements that must be met by the faculty each year.

"We offer classes for them to get professional development time," Carleo said. "When we buy computers for their offices we require them to take training before placement."

For many staff members, the PMRC will be the focal point for development of their technology skills in the foreseeable future, Carleo said.

"What the machines here can do is greater than anything available to other parts of the campus," Lou Albert, director of the PMRC, said.

Albert said the PMRC will give faculty and staff the opportunity to work in a hands-on environment and experiment with new technology and its applications. Along with the availability of experimentation, will be an on-site support staff ready to guide whenever necessary.

"A letter to staff has gone out, but we plan to have a grand opening in April," Albert said. "We'll be able to down link satellite feed, we'll have cable station, video play for projection or monitor and network capabilities of the Internet."

Albert said the center will also have self paced interactive conference training programs, e-mail, video conferencing and photo scanning capability.

"The idea is to make the room as versatile as possible. We can work in a conference style, amphitheater style, training table platform and workshop. There's no other facility in the district with these capabilities. There's so much this room has to offer."

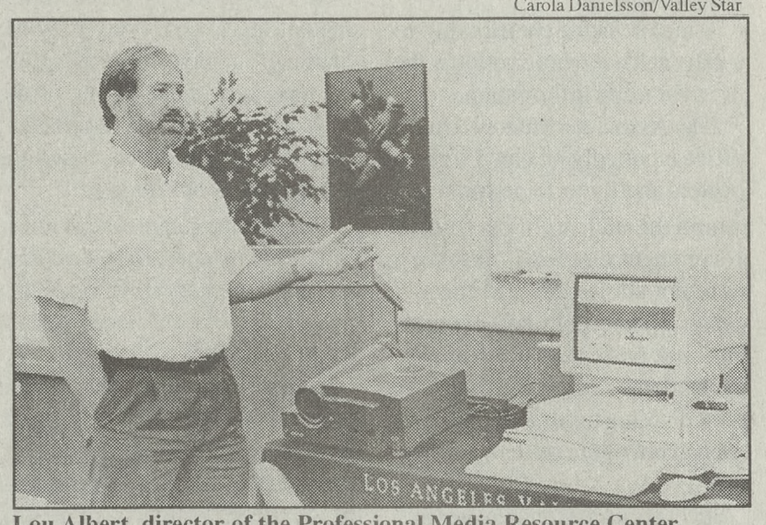
Additionally, Albert said, the room will have regular workshops, vendor demos, multimedia design development, access to new software applications and much more.

Albert said every school should have a comparable staff training facility to serve their institution. He said that the expense, approximately $200,000, is not that exorbitant considering the benefits to the staff in skill development, which in turn is passed on to the students.

"The potential is as far reaching as the institute wants to make it," Albert said. "Technology will be the biggest driving force in education in the future. We need to take that technology and move into the next millennium."

Steve Witney, manager of the Writing Center, agrees that faculty interest in improved computer skills is necessary and is pleased to report that interest is increasing every year.

Carola Danielsson/Valley Star



**Lou Albert, director of the Professional Media Resource Center, points out new technology the center offers.**

"The level of computer literacy in our faculty has doubled over the last four years and more than doubled the skills of those who were already computer literate," Witney said. We have more technology access for our faculty, and this in turn is passed on to our students."

One instructor who has taken the message that technology is the future is Dr. Carmen Salazar, chairwoman of the Department of Foreign Languages.

"Next semester, I'm taking a sabbatical and my plan of study is the use of computers in teaching," Salazar said. "I'll be looking at different programs available and ways we can use multimedia in our teaching and I'll share this with other faculty."

Salazar said the PMRC has already been very helpful when used as a resource center and that all her department needs now are the computers to put to use the skills she and the other faculty are developing.

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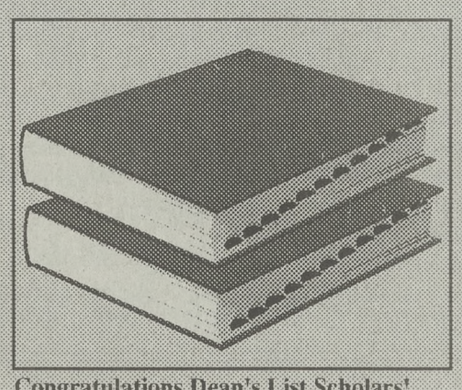
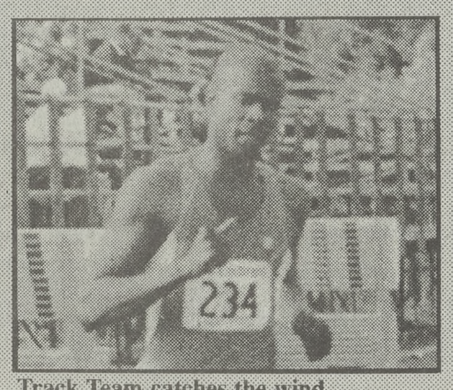
Not more than a pretty face. Page 5



Congratulations Dean's List Scholars! Page 3




Track Team catches the wind. Page 6

# OPINION



## Liz Strikes Back

### Greetings Earthlings, Take us to Your Leader!

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
OPINION EDITOR

Every single day of my existence, I look up at the sky. I wonder if there is any kind of intelligent life on other planets. Sure, some will say "I'm still looking for intelligent life here on earth."

The possibility of aliens coming to visit Earth has been pondered for a long time. I have read many theories of alien visitors. Some people even believe that many landmarks, like the pyramids, were created with assistance from beings from other worlds. Many people claim to have photographic evidence of UFO's.

Unfortunately, 99 percent of those sightings are disproved. Except, there's still that one percent that cannot be explained. The most frightening is that, many people claim they have actually been abducted and experimented on by aliens.

A folklorist wrote in a university dissertation that one out of four alien abductees claim to have seen other humans being experimented on. Many of those abductees do not even remember being abducted until they have gone through some kind of hypnotherapy. So, it is possible that we could have been abducted and not even remember.

The idea of life in other planets is not so far fetched. The universe is infinite, beyond human comprehension. Scientists have proven that there are billions of galaxies in the universe. In just our galaxy, there are millions of stars. What if around some of those stars, there are planets orbiting them? Suppose our solar system is an average case. Wouldn't it be possible that maybe there is some kind of life on, at least one of those planets? It seems to me, that it is very possible that there could be life somewhere out there.

Hollywood is making millions of dollars off of this amazing phenomenon. Not a year goes by when some alien movie hits the big screen. Usually, the film becomes a blockbuster. Some of my personal favorites are "E.T." and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

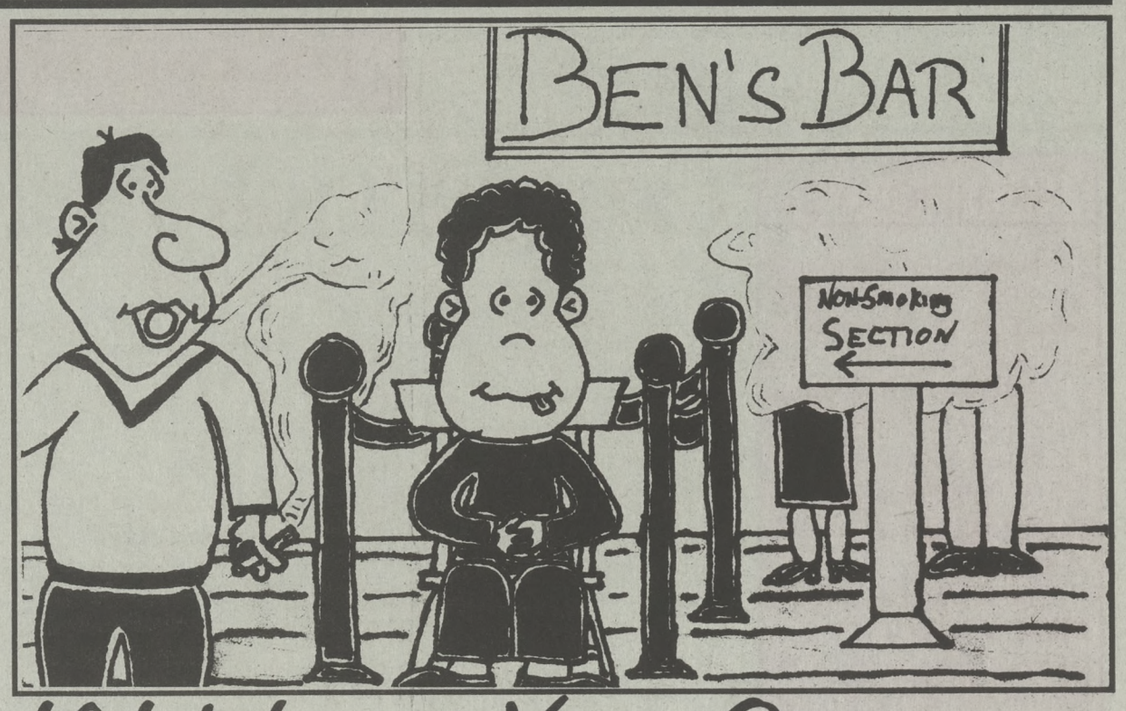
Each week hundreds of television viewers tune in to watch "The X-Files." This show is drenched with alien abduction and government cover-up stories. Also, shows like NBC's "Dark Skies" say that the government knows about aliens and is denying it to the general public.

There are many people who have taken the quest of proving aliens exist. Members of the Heaven's Gate cult killed themselves because they believed a UFO was going to take them away.

This obsession seems to be caused by the myriad of ideas that arise from the unknown. I, for one, am fascinated by the unknown. I prefer to keep an open mind and think that it is possible these encounters are happening. Sure, many people claim that little green men are among us. Except, there also is a great majority of the human population that think all this is a bunch of hogwash. Then again, these alien stories have not been proven.

I could easily tell you that I saw bigfoot dressed in drag. It could probably never be proven, or disproved. Would I be telling the truth? One would just have to decide for her or himself.

I have never seen UFO's or let alone see an alien. Though, I will admit, every time I look at the sky, I hope to see a bright, round, flashing craft. What I really wish for, is the day when intelligent beings will come to Earth, in peace to live with us. Quite frankly, I'm pretty tired of looking at humans only. Just remember: "The truth is out there."




## If I Wanted Your Opinion...

### This Week's Topic: Militant Non-smokers

By LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

Sure smoking will kill you, but what are you supposed to do after sex. Cuddle?

Now, I won't debate the negative health effects of sucking on a cancer stick, but those people that consider cigarette smokers as "murderers" are loopy.

I am, of course, referring to those militant non-smokers, the belligerent, statistic quoting, tobacco hating, portable fan carrying, bastions of selfishness.

That's right, selfish. Non-smokers expect their will to be met without resistance, spoiled children that cry until they are sated. Smokers today have become tantamount to lepers, outcasts from a society that demands the smoking minority defer to the will of the oppressive majority. In fact, it has become fashionable these days to thrash nicotine junkies in a limp attempt to fit in with the overly health conscious. Why?

One always hears about how "disgusting" smoking is, but isn't that really just trite rhetoric? Sure, snuff is nasty, all that drooling and spitting. Smoking, on the other hand, is just inhaling and exhaling. That is hardly immediately unpleasant to the general public. It may be that terminal lung cancer is the ultimate fate for those that enjoy lung candy. I'm sure there are more than a few sick people out there that get some perverse pleasure out of that fact.

It seems the real argument is that, in time, smokers start to cough, wheeze, spit and do other assorted nauseating acts. Sure, I admit it, that is pretty disgusting. Got news though, that's what happens when one gets old. I just described my grandma, someone who hasn't lit up in her entire, blessed life.

Moving right along to the issue of second hand smoke, the heart of the anti-smoking debate. Non-smokers whine about how the smoke that comes off the lit end of a cigarette is, what? Twenty times deadlier than what a smoker inhales? They wail about their increased chances of getting asthma, emphysema and lung cancer, thanks entirely to homicidal/suicidal tobacco addicts.

Well, if they are so damned concerned with their health, what the hell are they doing living in the smog capital of the world? Don't they realize they are inhaling the equivalent of two packs of cigarettes a day in this atmosphere? Why don't they boycott the automotive industry for giving them emphysema? Why not sue the Big Three for destroying their quality of life? Oh, wait, maybe they drive a car. Changes things a bit, don't it.

Finally, if tobacco were to be, God forbid, outlawed in favor of the public's safety, imagine these disastrous results. All those tens of thousands of displaced tobacco industry employees would have to be supported on welfare.

Now that's scarier than chemotherapy.

**Next Week: Pacifists**

## SOUND OFF

***Now is your chance to be heard!***
***What do you have to say to the rest of Valley College?***
***This week's topic: Racism***

**Call the *Valley Star* Monday, April 14 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at (818) 778-0276**
**Leave a brief message expressing your opinion.**
**Please speak clearly and spell your full name.**

## Editorial: Epidemic of Apathy

Like many community colleges, Valley seems to be suffering from a severe, but hopefully not fatal, case of apathy.

A major factor contributing to apathy and non-participation is the need for more information.

The Associate Student Union office reportedly prepared various posters and flyers to promote and inform the students of the student government elections - but, they were not allowed to post them - not on any tree, pole, post or building - nor pass them out amongst the students. The result? An expected voting turnout of less than ten percent of the student population.

Such an unreasonable restriction is hindering participation by the Valley College students. Adminstration needs to wake up. They are not dealing with some derelict deadheads that want to advertise the next druggie party - it's the president and commissioner of political affairs of the student government, who, reportedly, were even willing to pay the school a deposit fee to cover any possible "damage" a small piece of masking tape may cause to one of the not-so-beautiful and somewhat dilapidated, may we say, buildings or bungalows on campus.

While on the subject of information, it is our opinion and experience that orientation efforts of administration for the students are sorely lacking.

Those of us privileged enough to have experienced any semblance of an orientation remember little of significant value. Students returning to college, not directly from high school, are simply thrown out in the cold with little or no information at all.

Most of what we know about Valley College has been by mere happenstance. In our experience, teachers virtually never announce information from the Campus Bulletin. Instructors should be required to make weekly announcements regarding issues that affect or apply to students. If they are already required, it is our experience that it seems they have wholeheartedly rebelled in this area.

Perhaps the apathy bug has bitten them as well, or maybe it bit them first.

Every single faculty member was directly invited to attend the ASU election debates earlier this month and asked to announce it to their classes, the ASU office reported.

None of our instructors mentioned it at all and not one single faculty or staff member attended the debates. This is pathetic. The faculty needs to be asked if they have heard of the trickle down theory. Get with the ball game.

The faculty cannot use the, "I'm not paid enough to care" excuse. We already know that out of the roughly $23 million that Valley College has to subsist on each year, faculty and staff salaries eat up $21 million, 92 percent. The faculty is paid enough to care.

We applaud student trustee candidate Wilma Monroe who recently said to remember that without the students, none of the faculty nor administration would be here - there would be no one to teach, no one to administrate - and we add: no one to pay their pay checks.

Faculty and administration apathy directly affects the morale of the students. It is all part of the same picture. The faculty and administration work for the students and should care enough to provide sufficient information so that students may participate.

## Letter to the Editor

In response to the American Indian Student Association organization on campus, several weeks ago [*Valley Star Feb.27*] had published an article concerning the Dineh people (Navajo) being involved in a land dispute with the U.S. government.

Currently the U.S. government is trying to or already has evicted many traditional Navajo and Hopi families from Big Mountain, AZ, located in the Navajo Indian reservation. The main reason for the conflict between the Dineh people and the U.S. government is the land resources that are available on the reservation. The U.S. government wants to relocate all the people living in that area to somewhere else, specifically to Rio Puerco, NM, where one of the largest radioactive spills did occur not too long ago.

The traditional people of the Dineh Nation are asking for everyone's help. The native peoples of this land and the environment (mother earth) cannot take any more abuse and destruction from people who don't care.

Please make a difference and help. The future generations to come will be thankful. For more information contact website: http://www.primenet.com/~sdn; or contact your local representatives and ask them, "Why are my tax dollars being used to destroy other people's homes and the environment?"

**Carlos M. Ramirez,**
**Valley College student**

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Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401, (818) 778-0276; Advertising: (818) 778-0239

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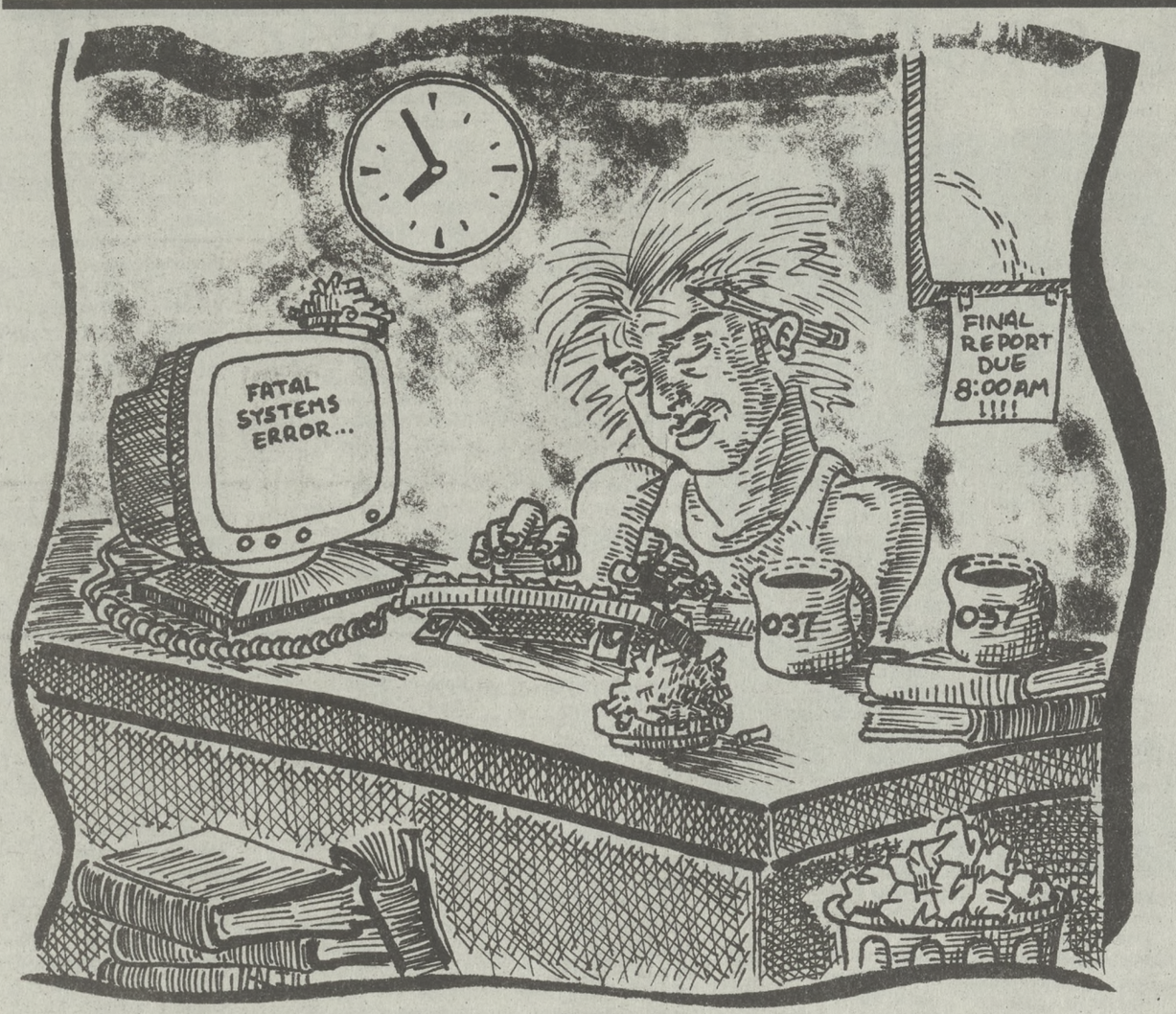
## LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS

The *Valley Star* will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the *Valley Star* at BJ 114 by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

# Congratulations Scholars!






# IT WAS WORTH IT!

## Fall 1996 Dean's Honor List:

*Full-time students*

Lusine Abgaryan
Rana A. Abusway
Dora A. Acevedo
Laura C. Acuna
Paula L. Acuna
Constance A. Adams
Adam M. Adler
Nadia Ahmadi
Chouchani Airapetian
Marianna Airiyan
Lusine Akopyan
Ricardo Alatorre
Ronald T. Allen
Christopher Allport
Devin J. Anderson
Yuliya Andreyeva
Masayoshi Araki
Aram Aramian
Sabrina S. Arendain
Jennifer L. Arens
Elizabeth Arias
Goar Arutyunyan
Karine Aslanyan
Alvard Avakyan
Vasak Avetisyan
Jean L. Avezac
Vincent M. Avila
Margarita B. Ayala
Norisa Azatyan
Anahit Azizyan
Nelli Babayan
Jooyeul Baek
Charron C. Bailey
Lisa M. Baldridge
Gayane Balikyan
Ngocbich T. Bardo
Valentina Barminova
Leticia Barreto
Vitaliy Barskiy
Todd J. Baston
Jason Bayever
Germine Baytaryan
Adrienne L. Beale
Richard J. Beaudry
Ramona D. Beiner
Tobias A. Beiner
Stephen A. Beland
Susan Belderian
Hagop M. Belian
Justin E. Bell
David M. Berke
F. Bidokhtinezhad
Deborah A. Biederman
Michel A. Bilal
Michael R. Bilca
Gabrielle A. Birchak
Linda K. Black
Julie A. Blakkolb
Michelle L. Block
Nelly Boyrazyan
Daniel T. Brady
Fernan Bravo-Alvarez
Sara M. Brazelton
Lisa L. Brehm
Alex Bronfermakher
Sari M. Brook
Hilary C. Brown
Spartak Buniatyan
Jill A. Burrows
Vanessa A. Cabral
Norman Calame
Hila Calif
Adriana Camarena
Nancy M. Carter
Mario J. Casillas
Marisol Castillo
Rene G. Castillo
Timothy J. Cates
Sara Chalden
Chai Chaloyphian
Peter Chang
Sung M. Chang
Erick Chavez
Joe Chavez
Laris Cherednichenko
Alina Chernyavskaya
Nataliya Chervonaya
Lucien Chocron
Sascha L. Christian
Mary M. Chua
Nattha Chunapongse
Christopher D. Clarke
Kristen M. Clarke
Alon Cohen
Nanette N. Cordic
Jill C. Cormick
Yuri Cuervo
John C. Czahrynski
Radostina Damianova
Harout N. Damirjian
Tagui Damlakyan
John B. Dandurand
Mydung Dang
Greg Dangelo
Carola M. Danielsson
Brett M. Davidson
Drucella A. Davis
Shirah L. Dedman
Johanna J. Denis
M. Derakhshannia
Patrick L. Deutsch
Maurice A. Diaz
Jaime L. Diluigi
Julie K. Dimaggio
Denise M. Dinning
Quangngoc Do
Christian B. Dolensek
Chake J. Dolmayan
Alero Doyle
Vladimir Drabkin
Ai V. Duong
Robert F. Dwyer
Cecile M. Eder
Heather B. Eisenberg
Liza S. Elcayam
Gloria C. Ellis
Shiho Endo
Michael Eng
Gevik Eskandary
Isabel Esparza
Catherine R. Espinoza
Hector H. Estrada
Rafael F. Fabregas
Nadia L. Faelnar
Elisa S. Farr
Ilya Favelyukis
Nejoud Fayad
Joel B. Feldman
Veronica Felix
Angelica Fimbres
Jennifer S. Finer
Ryan N. Fioravanti
Brandon K. Fitchew
Sara L. Fleetwood
Carrilin A. Florer
Jennifer S. Forss
Jake W. Fowler
Rebecca A. Fowler
Tiffany M. Frank
Mikhail W. Frasergray
Duncan C. Frearson
Kelly A. Frederick
Kenneth E. Freeman
Alejandro J. Furrer
Garrett A. Furuta
Nancy J. Gadney
Jennifer M. Gaitsch
Tanya M. Gallardo
Allison R. Gallegos
Sonia Gangwani
Aikui Garodglanyan
Alice Garcia
Daniel Garcia
Jairo Garcia
Mitchell W. Garrett
Manuel Gaxiola
Noriko J. Gee
Radu Georgescu
Lisa R. Gerard
Zohrab G. Getikian
Vera Gevorkyan
Peter D. Glenn
Hector R. Godinez
Taryn J. Goff
Eleonor Goldring
Ana M. Gonzalez
Ruth Gornicki
Phillip Gottstein
Elena Goutkin
Lisa M. Graham
Diana Greenshpun
Jillian L. Griffith
Frank R. Griggs
Veronika Grigoryan
Justin A. Gross
Maria M. Guerrero
Borislava Gutarts
Evelyn Gutierrez
Veronika M. Haddad
Taline B. Hajjar
Hisham D. Hamam
Sheila Harry
Anna D. Hartsfield
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Yawar A. Husain
David J. Hyman
Viktori Ignatovskaya
Chad M. Imler
Saroyan Inga
Tammy Inkavesvanitch
Udoms Inkavesvanitch
Isabel C. Iraheta
Ngozi D. Iroezi
Anna Itskovich
Steven V. Izquierdo
Haroutioun Jabourian
Larry H. Jacobson
Bradley A. James
Samar Kadi
Armenui Karabajakyan
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Nagisa Kawashima
Satenik Kazaryan
Alex Kaznachey
Yelena Kaznachey
Damon M. Kelliher
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# 'Abbotts' Needs More Than A Pretty Face

By LIZ BARRETT
STAR REPORTER

"Inventing the Abbotts" was up against such blockbusters as "Liar, Liar" and "The Saint" this past weekend and did not prove to be enough to bring in the big ticket sales.

"Abbotts" is a romance/drama based on a short story by Sue Miller. It chronicles roughly five years of a small Illinois town and the families that live there.

The Abbotts and the Holts are neighbors who greatly differ in their financial standing, but are nearly identical when it comes to their share of family problems.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbott are played by Will Patton and Barbara Williams. It seems all they do is throw parties to show off their money. They will find any reason to celebrate and invite all the neighbors to envy them.

They have three daughters who are all very different from one another. Eleonor Abbott, played by Jennifer Connelly, is the "bad" daughter who is constantly trying to get herself in trouble. Alice Abbott, played by Joanna Going, is the goodie-two-shoes daughter who tries to portray herself as the innocent one.

Pamela Abbott, played by Liv Tyler, just wants to be her own person and does not care to be associated with anyone in her family.

On the other side of the fence are the Holts. A family that is barely getting by on their mother's teaching salary. The widowed mother, played by Kathy Baker, does not play a very large role in her two son's lives and believes in letting them fight their own battles.

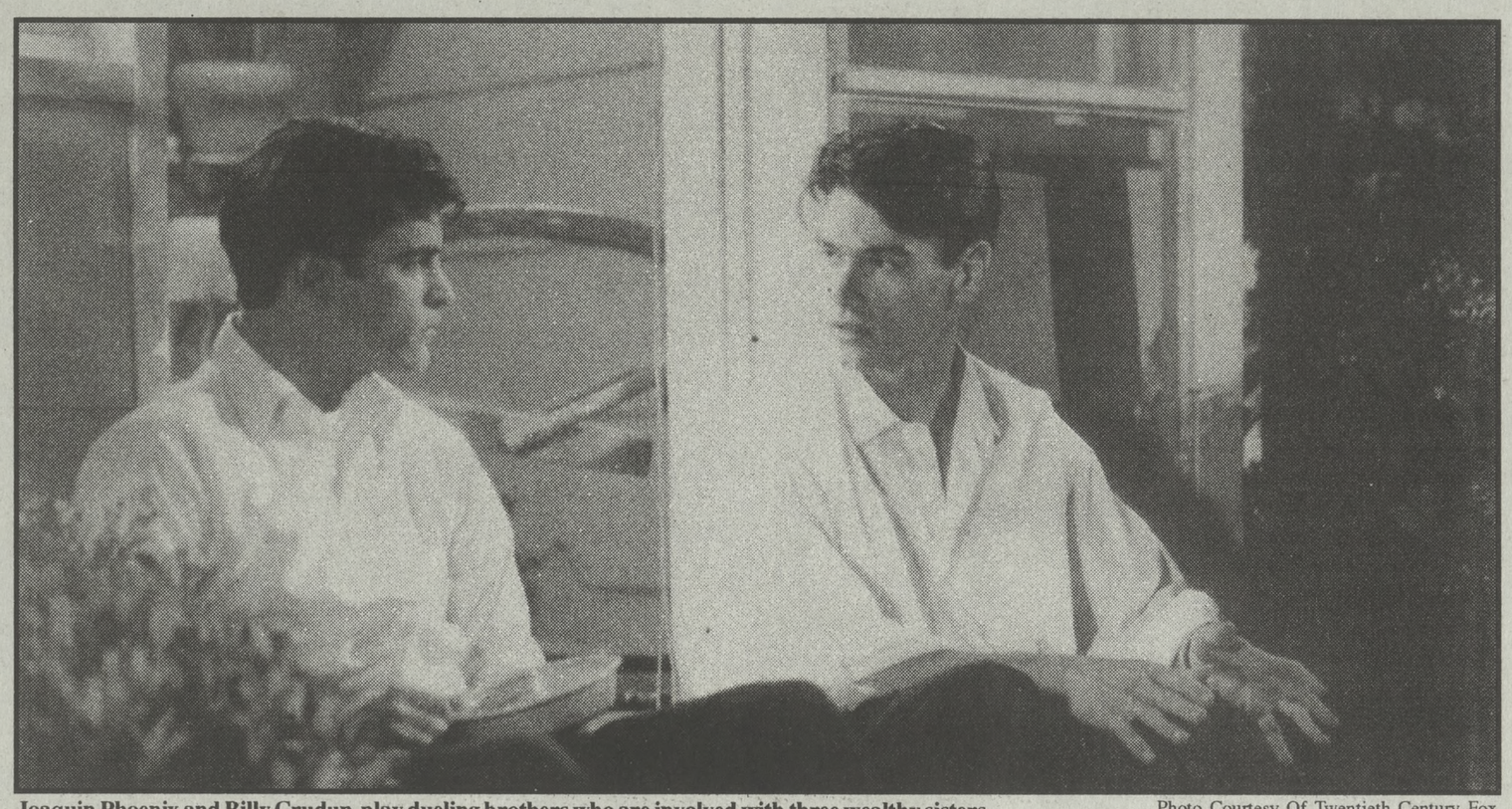
Billy Crudup plays 17-year-old Jacey Holt who fights a constant battle over the hatred he feels for Mr. Abbott. He takes out that hatred on anyone Abbott is related to. Joaquin Phoenix plays his 15-year old brother, Doug, who constantly tries to win the love of his brother, only to be pushed away time and time again.

Within all the scandal and failed romances, this movie is really about the relationship between two brothers and how, even though they can fight until they are bleeding, they will always have a brotherly bond that will ultimately come through.

In a time when the box office is interested mostly in action and comedy, this dramatic romance seems to be trying to serve one purpose only, to gain more screen time for these budding new actors and actresses. Crudup and Phoenix do a good job of portraying their characters and bringing out the mood of the movie. Liv Tyler, on the other hand, lacked a good deal of energy, which would have made the movie more lively.

Out of all the young actors, the one who brought the most reaction from the audience was Connelly. She knew just how to stir up the anger and emotions, but should have played a bigger role in the movie.

Perhaps the casting directors thought that putting a few pretty faces on the screen would make the movie a hit. They did succeed in covering the screen with pretty faces, and they even had a fairly good story line to accompany them. The only problem was, the characters' emotions were not displayed enough. There just was not enough energy to pull the audience in. I hate to say it, but "Inventing the Abbotts" is one that is better left to be seen on video.



**Joaquin Phoenix and Billy Crudup play dueling brothers who are involved with three wealthy sisters.** Photo Courtesy Of Twentieth Century Fox

# Valley College: A Skater's Playground

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On the steps of the Foreign Language Building, a 16-year-old gets up to speed on his skateboard, leans back a little, pushes down on his back leg, bends his knees and jumps. In the air he tries to flip the board and land on it, but the board lands on it's back. He fumbles forward.

After recovering, he spots a police car driving down Fulton Avenue. He and a buddy stop and watch until it passes by.

"Once we were stopped by the cops on campus and he said if he ever saw us skating here again he would take our boards away and give us a ticket, but I've never gotten one," Carlos Valdivia, 17, said.

Before Valdivia and his friend Devin Roberts, 16, came to Valley to practice their jumps, they were at Grant High School, where Valdivia attends. They were asked to leave by security, Valdivia said.

"We aren't here to destroy property," Valdivia said. "The security and the cops think we do all this tagging, but we don't. We just skate. There is nowhere else to go. If we go somewhere, we get kicked out. All we want to do is have fun,"

Valdivia has been skating for three years and said he doesn't do this just for fun. He hopes that later on he will be able to enter a competition for skaters.

Christopher Clarke, a 19-year-old Valley student, opened his hands, palms up, to show the scrapes marking each time he has fallen.

"No girl would want me to touch them with these hands," Clarke said.

Skaters said they are only interested in improving their jumps and have no concerns about getting hurt. Watching Valdivia and Roberts practice. their jumps and different stunts proved that they are not worried about cuts, bruises or getting hurt.

"Valley has a lot of cool places to skate and practice jumps on the stairs of buildings, Clarke said. "It's too bad that we aren't allowed and we always get warned by secruity."

However, Valley College is not the only place they like to skate, Valdivia said. The Santa Monica Courthouse attracts skaters all the time, along with other schools in Los Angeles, nearby colleges and high schools like Grant, they said.

Compared to some of the older and more-experienced skaters at Valley College, Valdivia and Roberts said they were not attempting dangerous jumps. Despite his constant falls, Roberts kept jumping over the trash can without pausing, not caring if he would get hurt.

They had chosen a more discreet spot on campus so they would not be noticed, Valdivia and Roberts said.

"There's people that do worse things here, Kirk Bishop, a 19- year-old Valley student, said. "Why are they harrassing us?"

Performing jumps over trash cans, steps and flipping skateboards in the air is not easy. It takes practice, which is what they are doing here at Valley, they said. Skateboarders said they only want the right to express themselves by flipping and jumping with their surf boards on wheels.

"We don't hurt anyone," Bishop said. "I just use it for transportation around campus from my car, to my classes."

These are the conditions facing most skaters in public areas, the skaters said they are harassed and railroaded by police, pedestrians and public officials.

"A cop came up to a friend of mine who had my board and told him to stop skating," Clarke said. "Later he came up to him and threatened to arrest him if he didn't answer his questions."

The skaters said this treatment creates a breed of mobile miscreants so dead set against the rules of the establishment that they lash out in ever more dangerous forms of skating acrobatics. It is because of these prohibitive rules, they said, that skaters turn to wheeled anarchy.

Alice Garabedian/Valley Star

**Christopher Clarke makes his attempt at landing a jump off the six steps near the Administration Building.**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# Monarch Track Team Has an Off Day at Track Classic

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

The weather was intermittently cloudy but the light seldom shone down on the LAVC track team Saturday at the Riverside Track Classic.

Highlights that were of note included a first place in the women's 3000m by Marisol Barajas and two seconds achieved by Charles Lee in the 100m and 200m.

Also, shotputer and discus thrower Emmy Vargas placed fifth in the shot put and achieved a personal record of 127'7" in the discus for a fourth place finish.

Overall, the team had a "disappointing day" according to men's coach Kevin Galbraith with many performances that were below expectations.

"We had a couple of good individual performances," Galbraith said. "But we're still waiting for a couple of those breakthrough efforts."

The day started promisingly for Valley, as distance runner Barajas had a dominating win in the 3000m in the second race of the day.

"I was hoping to break 10:00 flat," Barajas said. "But there was no real competition. I was running by myself, ahead of the field so it was hard to really press."

Finishing with a time of 10:23.9, Barajas said she had a fast start and felt she had greater concentration than she had in some recent races.

"I have better races when I have more competition," Barajas said. "Coach Gretchen Lohr said I did real good. She said not to think of it as a race, but as a good workout."

Expectations were high for standout sprinter Charles Lee in the 100m and 200m, but his races were not up to the standards he or his coach said they have come to expect. In the 100m, Lee got off to what Galbraith called an average start and could not make up the difference to catch Mickey Grimes of Riverside who won in a time of 10.45, beating Lee by thirteen-hundredths of a second.

"If ryou have a so-so start, it doesn't matter how the rest of the race goes in the short sprints," Galbraith said.

Lee said he felt he would have to work on his turnout, getting his transition to high gear shorter and quicker.

"I only ran a few 100's this year and Grimes has been running them all year," Lee said. "I have to get back into my rhythm."

The effort by Vargas in the shot put and discus added up to what Galbraith called "probably the team's best performance in the meet. She had a great day"

Photos by Maria Ivey/Valley Star

**Charles Lee (above) wins second place in the 200m dash in 21.52 seconds and Marisol Barajas runs the 1500m after winning a first place in the 3000m.**

Vargas felt her shot put effort was "only average, about 38'5" but was happy with her placing.

"Like always, I wanted a P.R. [personal record] but you can't have that all the time," Vargas said. "My goal is to get over 40 feet. That would be the school record. I want my name in the gym."

Vargas said her discus went very well and beat her old personal record by five feet.

"I've been expecting it," Vargas said. "I was surprised but I'm really happy how I've progressed."

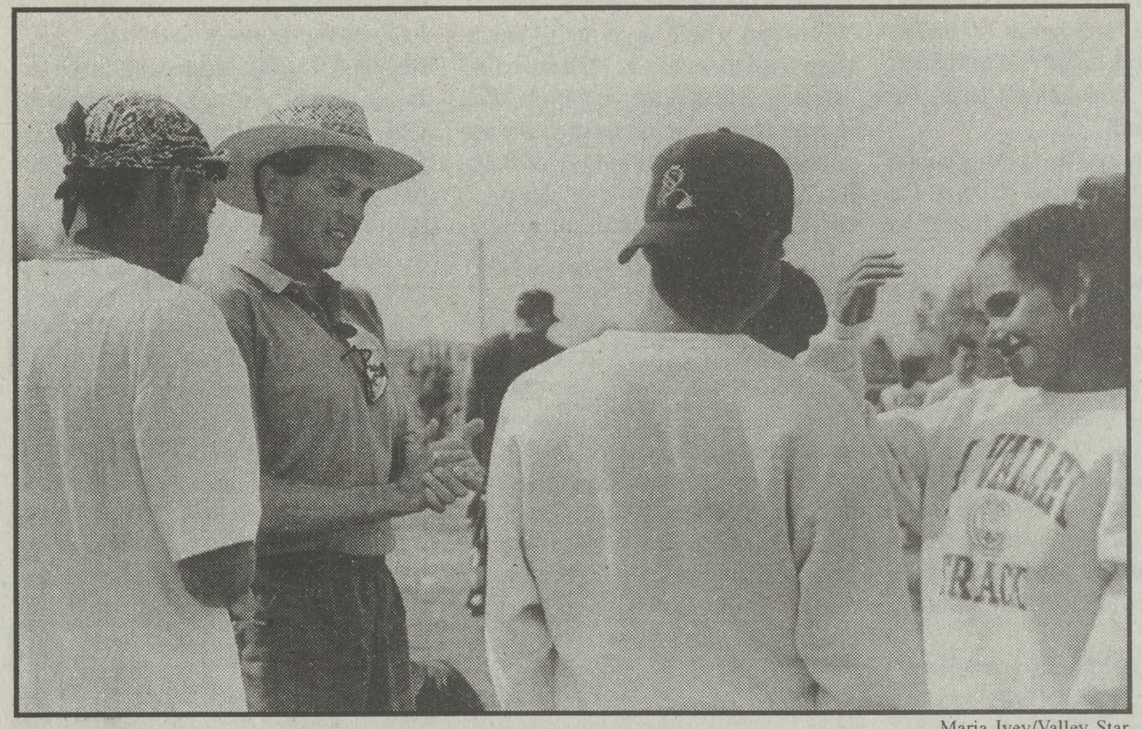
In other events, the men's 400m relay team, expected to do well, had a disqualification for exchange outside the zone. The baton must be exchanged within certain boundaries. Barajas was not herself in the 1500m and faded to sixth in a time of 4:51.44

Patricia Loera achieved a ninth place in the 5000m in a time of 18:56.9 and Dena Lumel achieved a twelfth place in the 3000m in 11:19.1.

David Belk got an eleventh place in the 200m in 22.32 and a twenty fourth in the 100m in 11.13.

Galbraith summed up the day with what he called a reality check.

"It was just a bad day and that sometimes happens," Galbraith said. "The trick is not to let it take to much of your emotional energy."




Maria Ivey/Valley Star

**Coach Kevin Galbraith gives some of his runners a little pep talk while they get ready for competition at the Riverside Track Classic.**

# Valley Performs On The Track and In The Field

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

Run a little faster, throw a little farther or jump a little higher. For every LAVC track and field athlete, the goal is to exceed one of their personal limits each week.

The Monarch track team, coached by Kevin Galbraith on the men's side and Gretchen Lohr on the women's, spend a great deal of their time in training preparation to achieve these goals.

"We're doing some training every day," Galbraith said. "Our distance runners run six days a week and our sprinters train five to six days a week."

Galbraith said the training for each type of event is as individual as the events themselves. The distance people, for example, have a split schedule of training, three days hard and three days easy. A typical easy day for an 800m runner might be a comfortable five mile run set at an easy pace.

"A hard day of training would involve race pace or faster," Galbraith said. "Intensity is the key."

Galbraith said the sprinters have a completely different regimen because the needs of the events are different.

"Sprint training is somewhat different," Galbraith said, "In every other event except sprint you can run faster than your race pace."

Galbraith described a typical part of sprinter training as including repeated reps of 30 meters at top speed, resistance training using weights such as tires for drag and speed assisted training using rubber bands to pull to high speed.

For field events, because of the individualized skill and strength needs, each has their own practice techniques. Shot put and discus thrower, Emmy Vargas, said the training methods of throwing coach, Scott West, are far removed from the less sophisticated teachings at high school.

"We do a lot more repetitions and work on technique a lot more," Vargas said. "The technique I learned here is completely different from what I had in the first place."

Galbraith said he has high praise for West and the effect he has had on the field athletes he has worked with.

"Our throwing coach is a former USC hammer thrower and he has done a great job with Emmy," Galbraith said. "She was under 30 feet in the shot but has really come on. Emmy is now only 1.5 inches from the school record. She's at 39.5 so she's right there. He's done great things with her."

Although the team is smaller in number than Galbraith had hoped for, Galbraith said they do have a number of standout athletes.

"Charles Lee is probably our standout star on the men's side and Marisol Barajas on the women's," Galbraith said.

Galbraith said he sees Lee as having unlimited potential and expects great things in his future. At the UCSD Open in March, Lee ran a 46.79 personal record in the 400m, the fastest Junior College 400m in Southern California to date. Lee said he is not sure which sprint events will take him the farthest in the future.

"To tell the truth I don't know," Lee said. "I like to run the 100m and 200m the best, maybe, but I know how to run the 400m, but right now my heart is in the 100m and 200m."

Lee said his immediate goals are focused on the shorter sprints.

Galbraith said he is impressed with Barajas' abilities and effort also.

"Obviously, Marisol, to come in as a freshman and win the state meet, she's amazing," Galbraith said. "Just about any distance from 1500m on up she has a chance to win."

Barajas said she has high hopes for improved times in her distances in the not to distant future.

"I plan to break 10 (minutes), maybe 9.40 in the future for the 3000m. Soon, that's for sure, " Barajas said. "I plan at least a 4.40 in the 1500m or even better, or at least close to that time."

Galbraith said many other members of the team have great potential.

"David Belk and Iman Williams are doing very well," Galbraith said. " Rene Bernal has potential."

Overall, Galbraith hopes to at least match the sixth place Valley achieved in league competition last year with his current team.

"We didn't have as many folks turn out as we hoped, so we're missing some key events," Galbraith said. "If you don't have the bodies to fill the lanes you can't score."

Although Galbraith said the schedule is a great deal of work , he still manages to keep a lighter side to his perspective. As some of his team were preparing to set out on an easy day's run, Galbraith called encouragement to them:

"Run easy. You can tell jokes and have fun," Galbraith said. "Good luck and write if you find work."

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